Church Record from Hagsfeld

The first two of the attached pages together are a reduced size photocopy of the birth and marriage record of Johannes Meinzer and family. It was brought to Pennsylvania by him from the Evangelische Gemeinde (Protestant Congregation) in Hagsfeld in 1751. The translation of it into English is given here, but that also appears as "Certificate" on the first page of the genealogy published by Dr. Mentzer. The next translation on these pages concerns the birth and baptismal record of Christina Benninger, the daughter of Wendel and Margretta Benninger. (In due time, Christina became the wife of George Mentzer (II) of New Holland.) The third translation is also given in Mentzer's genealogy under "Translation." The German originals of these last two translations have not been located.

The final section which was copied from an early edition of the Columbian Cyclopedia says, among other things, that in 1880 Durlach, Baden, Germany had a population of 747. (What might the population of it and of the nearby smaller village of Hagsfeld have been in 1750, over a century earlier?) It appears that Durlach in northern Lancaster County was named for Durlach in Baden by early settlers, especially the Eberlys.

The originals of the attached documents are in the files of the Lancaster County Historical Society. They were located and copied for me by Mr. Robert H. Lear, a genealogist living in Lancaster. During the course of his search, he learned that Conrad Meintzer (II) died in 1781, and that his widow, born Elizabeth Hibschman, later married a Peter Zeller. Further, he saw in the records of the Warwick Lutheran Church (Brickerville) that the following were members of it at one time or another: Johannes Meinzer (I), Conrad (II), Frederic (III), John (IV), and Israel (V). For a long time that was the only really organized Lutheran congregation in the northern part of Lancaster County. Swamp Church (union Lutheran and Reformed) near Blainsport, formerly Reinholdsville, was built

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